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THE STRATIOMYIDAE OF ALASKA

(DIPTERA)

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According to my records, only one species of Stratiomyidae has previously been reported from Alaska, namely *Beris annulifera* (Bigot), recorded by Coquillett (*Proc. Wash. Acad. Sci.*, 2:406, 1900) from Sitka, Kukak Bay, and Popof Island. Any additional records from that area are, therefore, noteworthy. The specimens on which the new records are based were collected by entomologists of the Arctic Health Research Center at Anchorage, Alaska, and the Agricultural Experiment Station at Palmer, Alaska.

Beris annulifera (Bigot)*Oplacantha annulifera* Bigot, 1887. *Ann. Soc. Ent. France* (6), 7:21

There is quite a little variation in the coloration in this species. The males of the Alaska specimens before me have the pile of the mesonotum and of the head predominantly black; consequently, they will trace to *californica* James in my key to the genus (*Ann. Ent. Soc. Amer.* 32:546, 1939). The genitalia of the two species, however, are quite different; in *annulifera* the terminal male tergite is truncate with the posterior angles strongly produced into spine-like processes which bend ventrally below the cerci; in *californica* these spine-like projections are lacking. The head pile of *californica* is longer, coarser, and more bushy; that surrounding the antennae is at least as long as the first antennal segment, and that on the lower part of the face is as long as the first two antennal segments combined. The face in *californica* is somewhat broader. The female of *californica* has not yet been discovered.

Because of the color variations, there seems to be little justification for accepting Johnson's varieties based on leg coloration as anything more than ecological or possibly Mendelian variants.

ALASKA. Previously recorded by Coquillett from Sitka, Kukak Bay, and Popof Island. Matanuska Valley, June 22 and 27, July 1, 1950 (C. O. Berg), 3 ♀ ♀, 3 ♂ ♂; Palmer, July 5, 1950 (R. H. Washburn), 1 ♀.

Sargus decorus alaskensis, new subspecies

Structurally, as in the typical form, but differing as follows. Antennae black. Ivory-colored spots on front usually separated by a distance as great as the diameter of an individual spot. Pile of front anterior to anterior ocellus mostly black in female, wholly black in male. Body more blackish than in the typical form; the thorax blackish-green dorsally, predominantly black laterally except along the notopleural suture and below the wing bases; abdomen black dorsally and ventrally. Wing distinctly clouded across the stigma and discal cell, this clouding only slightly evident in the male. Size variable, but in the specimens at hand averaging somewhat larger than in the typical form. Length, 7-10 mm.

Types. Holotype, female, Palmer, Alaska, July 5, 1950 (R. H. Washburn). Allotype, male, Matanuska Valley, Alaska, June 23, 1950 (C. O. Berg). Paratypes, 4 females, Palmer, Alaska, July 5 and 10, 1950 (Washburn); 4 females, Matanuska Valley, June 23, 28, and July 8, 15 1950 (Berg). Holotype and allotype in author's collection.

In coloration, except for the yellow legs, this subspecies resembles *S. cuprarius* more closely than typical *S. decorus*. The wing clouding is similar though not so distinct as in *cuprarius*. Structurally, however, it is clearly *decorus*. This applies particularly to the head structure of the female, which is quite different in the two species. In *decorus*, the frontal orbits posteriorly, that is, behind the anterior ocellus, are broad (one-fourth width of front at anterior ocellus), parallel-sided, and almost wholly glabrous; in *cuprarius* the orbits, though glabrous, are narrow (at their broadest not more than one-sixth to one-seventh width of front at anterior ocellus), but broaden somewhat toward the posterior ocelli and then become narrow again somewhat behind that plane. The front consequently presents a more strongly convex appearance posteriorly in *cuprarius*.

I believe *alaskensis* should be considered more than merely a melanic form of *decorus*. In the United States the species, according to my records, does not occur above 7,000 ft. altitude (Colorado) and higher altitude forms do not show the melanic characteristics of the Alaskan form.

Nemotelus (Melanonemotelus) nigrinus Fallén

1817. Diptera Suecica, Stratiomyidae, p. 6.

Final determination of the taxonomic status of the Nearctic species of *Melanonemotelus* depends on a thorough study of the forms involved. However, the following series seems to be conspecific with the European *nigrinus* and with Nearctic specimens which I have referred there.

ALASKA. Matanuska Valley, June 28, July 1, 8, and 15, 1950 (C. O. Berg), 12 ♂ ♂ ♀ ♀.